

The records show that the number of called fouls have been increasing since 1939 when the studies were started, but that the increase in the last year under the 5 personal limitation has been less than between 1943 and 1944 when 4 personal fouls operated in both years.

Another interesting comparison concerns the number of times a player was eliminated by excessive fouling. In 800 games in 1944 players were benched 2.3 times per game for 4 fouls; in 1945 the number was 1.5 per game for 5 fouls.

The steady increase in fouls per game for 6 years opens many questions which, frankly, have not been explained to my satisfaction.

1. Are players cruder?
2. Do players knowing they can stay in longer foul with freedom?
3. Are officials more strict?
4. To what extent does more rapid play affect fouling?
5. Has free substitutions led to more fouls?
6. Has 3 second violations and play around the basket brought more fouls.

The vote concerning the 3 second rule was 943 satisfactory; 232 not satisfactory. The minority here is growing and indicates that some action must be taken soon. We covered every recommendation, and found them so widely diversified that we couldn't agree on anything except to order more research.

I still couldn't get enough support to move all jumps to the nearest circle but there was less objection than previously. Ed Hickox, as chairman of the research division, was asked to make some tests. Without official sanction from the Big Six I suggested that we be allowed to use the circle jump regulations next year, and with Ed's help compare such statistics as we can gather with those of another conference using the present rules. I'll bring that up at our spring meeting. If you favor it you might be thinking of the types of records we can obtain to prove our point.

My own assignment was to work out differences in the visual code of signals for officials. My report was accepted and we have tried to describe the signals and will have new drawings made for next year's Guide. I imagine we have some bugs in them, but a little use ought to show just what can be added to have all referees using the same motions to transmit their decisions.

I was present when H.V. Porter gave a review of our proceedings to the newspaper men and know he was accurate, but the news items gave some false impressions and actually were inaccurate in some instances. Whitney Martin's comments on giving additional help to the tall man on offense were based on these inaccurate articles as you will see when Porter prints the rules changes.

After all this letter was written simply to let you know what I did with your suggestion, and to outline the reasons why it was not accepted. The other stuff is merely a review of things in which I thought you might be interested.

Yours truly,

*George*

George R. Edwards.